

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-17 and 23-25 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 10 being the independent claims. Claim 3 depends from claim 1, but was withdrawn from consideration until such time as a generic claim was found to be allowable. Since generic claim 1 is allowable, Applicants request that Examiner consider and allow claim 3. Claim 2 is sought to be amended. Claims 18-22 were cancelled by previous amendment. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,543,518. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as to why claim 1 is allowable.

Other Matters

Claims 4-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the amendment to claim 2, claims 4-6 now depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as to why claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 1, 7-17 and 23-25 were allowed. Since generic claim 1 should now be in condition of allowance, Applicants request that Examiner consider claim 3 and that it be allowed.

In the Office Action dated February 8, 2006, the Examiner indicated that a certified copy of the priority document has not been received. The Examiner's attention is drawn to Applicants' filing of December 1, 2005, in which Applicants provided a copy of Notification Concerning Submission or Transmittal of Priority Document, Form PCT/1B/304, showing that the foreign priority document, for which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), was submitted to the International Bureau in International Application No. PCT/JP02/08714. Applicants respectfully request that Examiner acknowledge the receipt of Form PCT/1B/304, and the perfection of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

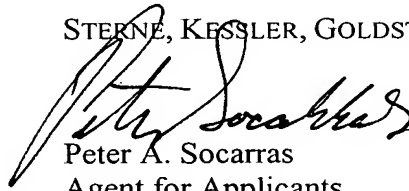
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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